



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: June 14, 2007

Editorial Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.

Administrative Business

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. The May minutes were approved with corrections.

As many new faces were noted at the meeting, Tom Cady (HC-V) asked everyone go around the table and introduce themselves, beginning with himself.

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Rachel Ellis (NJDEP/OQA) reported the ELAP certifications were going out as well as some NELAC with no changes to their certification. Renewals will be handles on a first in, first out basis. If the certification renewal forms are returned by the due date, they will be out on time.

Certification Streamlining: Sharon O'Toole (MAEL) reported a guidance document will be posted on the ELAC page of the OQA website, which will list all requirements as this is the easiest and fairest means for everyone. This ends the sub-committee's work.

PT Program: Rachel Ellis (NJDEP/OQA) reported the L2T PT will start in January (2008). The new PT will be for enumeration, not presence/absence. The S/HW PT invoices will be going out in about two weeks and will include sludge metals. If your facility does not analyze for these, subbing them out, cross them out on the invoice and inform Rachel. Do not forward the PT samples to your subcontractor. The June WP samples ship on Monday. The July Drinking Water letter will have the contact info for when Rachel is out on maternity leave. The invoices for the S/HW PT round will be going out soon. The due date time frame is being expanded; 40 days for make-up PTs and 60 days for this one. Rachel stressed to everyone that she can order the PTs based upon a PO or request for a check form as some labs have a long process to get the funding and sometimes miss the deadline.

TPH: There was much heated discussion concerning the continued use of freon in the analysis of TPH. Dr. Michael Miller (NJDEP/OQA) reported the EPA is still working on the changed to 40 CFR 136 published on March 12th. If a permit lists the method by method number, that method must be continued until permit is changed. As 418.1 is not a certified method for soil, no soil permits are affected. Greg Toffoli (NJDEP/SRP) reported freon methods will be eliminated for soil as of October 1, 2207. A letter concerning this should be posted next week. Labs had originally been told the end date would be July 1st but that notice was removed from the SRP website later the same day it was posted. Water permits are affected if method numbers are specified; if method number not specified, can use new method. Tom Cady (HC-V) asked if the permittee can request the change in their permit. He added why should labs upgrade to the new method, especially if the new method is rejected. Dr. Miller stated there would be no decision concerning water programs until late fall.

Dr. Miller stated the EPA is removing a lot of original methods (e.g. flame AA). There are three categories: 1) Long standing equivalent methods. Labs need to make sure certification gets changed over to the new method. Check the QC, calibration methods and new SOP. 2) New methods added per parameter (e.g. ICP/MS). Labs need to apply for this as if applying for a new method. There will be a listing on the website for what is required for certification. Labs can still use the old methods until the NJDEP/OQA removes all method numbers from permits and they are no longer renewing for that method in Part III. 3) Method modification 40 CFR 136.6 states changes if chemistry, QC and analytical requirements are as stringent but the calibration is unchanged. Must notify NJDEP/OQA if making changes. Must also notify clients if any changes are being made.

Mark Feitelson (PAS) brought up that one lab (STL) had received an e-mail from Joe Aiello (NJDEP/OQA), which was sent to this lab only concerning the freon issue. Tom Cady (HC-V) stated this letter discussed the changes yet was sent to this lab only with absolutely no communication between OQA and ELAC. Carl Armbruster (STL) stated the letter was in response to an e-mail. Sharon Ercoliani (GSL) stated these changes impact labs, making things complex. She suggested a notice be put on the OQA website about this extension.

Dr. Mike Miller (NJDEP/OQA) stated freon is going away, but not on July 1st as the method 418.1 is still listed in a lot of permits.

TNI: Jamie Y (Accutest) reported the August meeting would be in Cambridge, Mass. Information about this is on their website. The training schedule should be available on their website in a few weeks.

NJQLs: Andy Fishman reported they are looking for a new person.

Bioassay: No report.

Sludge (Biosolids): Anthony Pilawski (NJDEP/BPR) had nothing to report.

Communications and (OQA) Website: Tom Cady (HC-V) reported receiving e-mails asking when were the ELAC minutes going to be updated. Sharon O'Toole (MAEL) replied she would be sending them to Tom Chipecta (NJDEP/OQA) shortly.

Old Business

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water: Linda Bonnetto (NJDEP/BSDW) reported it has been suggested the monitoring schedule be posted on the website. She provided a handout from the Division of Water Supply's website, which included links and the schedule, organized by county.

Linda stated the Groundwater Rule is up for renewal in 2009. There will be lots of changes and they hope to include updates in the regulations. These will affect Groundwater, Groundwater sources or if you buy from groundwater, with the exception being if you combine Groundwater with Surface water prior to treatment (141 CFR part 400 Subpart S). Starting December 1st 2009, there will be five requirements. Sanitary surveys will be required for all Groundwater systems. Either the system has to work out the viral pretreatment or undergo microbial source water monitoring (fecal coliform/E. coli) and the state will probably use the E. coli as the fecal indicator. It was noted there is no E. coli method for Drinking Water.

Karen Fell (NJDEP/BSDW) reported the perchlorate rule is in review. If no problems, it will probably be implemented in 2008. The MCL recommendation is 5 pbb. She is not recommending people purchase new equipment as yet as the MCL has not been finalized.

Karen stated Drinking Water will institute and MCL for radon, which will make New Jersey the first in the nation to do so. Implementation will be in 2009.

PWTA: John Shevlin (NJDEP/BSDW) reported the new database was implemented April 16th, with about 1600 submittals. The PWTA rules will likely be adopted as is but may extend to 2009 to match SDW.

Site Remediation: Greg Toffoli (NJDEP/SRP) reported the meeting to talk about PQLs for the NJSCC. He asked labs to check the PQLs as some appear unattainable. The original PQLs came from a variety of sources, such as the SW-846 EQLs, MDL x 5, professional judgment and all certified methods. The public comment on this is open until July 29th and comments can be made through the official channels addressed in the regs. Greg asked the ELAC to give him a list of the unattainable PQLs with a list of what would be an attainable PQL. Tom Cady (HC-V) asked Greg if we should reply individually or as a committee. Tom asked who would be willing to chair this committee and Mark Feitelson (PAS) volunteered. If anyone is interested in working on this, please get in touch with Mark.

Tom Cady (HC-V) inquired about bar code programs and electronic signatures for the ICOC. Greg replied this may be approved considering the Assistant Commissioner's stance on electronic signatures.

New Business

Lab Certification Fee Proposal: Rachel Ellis (NJDEP/OQA) reported the proposal is still in legal review.

Annual Meetings: Tom Cady (HC-V) reported he will be holding off for at least six months contacting the lab managers. He will wait until the issues discussed at this meeting, especially elimination of 418.1 and use of QAM-025, have been resolved as ELAC has taken a hit in credibility due to this.

It was reported Debbie Waller will do an update for the new micro methods.

There were no other new issues. The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for 09:30 AM on July 12, 2007 – 5th Floor Conference Room.

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